

CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A high capacity distributed packet switch comprising:~~(a)~~ a plurality of edge modules, each edge module including at least three ~~input/output~~ dual ports, the at least three ~~input/output~~ dual ports being organized in a group of J dual ports, a group of K dual ports and a group of L dual ports; wherein
 - ~~(b)~~ the group of J dual ports is connected by communication links to a single regional core center comprising a number of spatially distributed regional core modules;
 - ~~(c)~~ the group of L dual ports is connected by communications links to a plurality of global core centers; ~~and~~
 - ~~(d)~~ the group of K dual ports is connected by communications links to data traffic sources and data traffic sinks; andsaid each edge module is time-locked to at least one of said regional core modules.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Original) The high capacity distributed switch as claimed in claim 1 wherein each of said plurality of global core centers comprises spatially distributed global core modules.
4. (Currently amended) The high capacity distributed switch as claimed in claim ~~2~~ 1 wherein each of said regional core modules comprises a plurality of parallel memory-less switches.
5. (Original) The high capacity distributed switch as claimed in claim 3 wherein each of said global core modules comprises a plurality of parallel memory-less switches.
6. (Original) The high capacity distributed switch as claimed in claim 4 wherein each of said plurality of parallel memory-less switches is an optical space switch.

7. (Original) The high capacity distributed switch as claimed in claim 5 wherein each of said plurality of parallel memory-less switches is an optical space switch.

8. (Original) The high capacity distributed switch as claimed in claim 1 wherein the plurality of edge modules are divided into groups, each group defining a region, and said group of J dual-ports of each edge module belonging to a one of the groups is connected exclusively to a respective regional core center.

9. (Original) The high capacity distributed switch as claimed in claim 1 wherein the L dual ports of said group of L dual ports of each edge module in a group of edge modules are connected directly to selected ones of the global core modules.

10. (Original) The high capacity distributed switch as claimed in claim 9 wherein the dual ports of said group of L dual ports of two or more of the edge modules in a group of edge modules are respectively connected to two or more of the global core modules via a memoryless shuffle stage.

11. (Currently amended) The high capacity distributed switch as claimed in claim 9 ~~1~~ wherein the dual ports of said group of L dual ports of at least two or more of the edge modules in a group of edge modules are respectively connected to at least two or more of the global core modules via a memory-less cross-connector.

12. (Currently amended) ~~The A~~ high capacity distributed packet switch ~~as claimed in claim 2~~ comprising a plurality of edge modules, each edge module including at least three dual ports, the at least three dual ports being organized into:

a group of J dual ports connected by communication links to a single regional core center;

a group of L dual ports connected by communications links to a plurality of global core centers; and

a group of K dual ports connected by communications links to data traffic sources and data traffic sinks;

wherein

said regional core center comprises a number of spatially distributed regional core modules, and

the regional core modules and their associated edge modules are spatially separated in a geographical zone bounded by a distance at which a propagation-delay of ~~signals~~ a signal traveling on the links a link between any core module and any associated edge module is within a predetermined upper bound.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently amended) ~~The~~ A high capacity distributed packet switch ~~as claimed in claim 2-~~ comprising a plurality of edge modules, each edge module including at least three dual ports, the at least three dual ports being organized into:

a group of J dual ports connected by communication links to a single regional core center;

a group of L dual ports connected by communications links to a plurality of global core centers; and

a group of K dual ports connected by communications links to data traffic sources and data traffic sinks;

wherein

said regional core center comprises a number of spatially distributed regional core modules, and

an edge module is collocated and associated with each regional core module, and a regional core controller is hosted by each of the edge modules collocated with the respective regional core modules.

15. (Currently amended) ~~The~~ A high capacity distributed packet switch ~~as claimed in claim 3-~~ comprising a plurality of edge modules, each edge module including at least three dual ports, the at least three dual ports being organized into:

a group of J dual ports connected by communication links to a single regional core center;

a group of L dual ports connected by communications links to a plurality of global core centers; and

a group of K dual ports connected by communications links to data traffic sources and data traffic sinks;

wherein

each of said plurality of global core centers comprises spatially distributed global core modules; and

an edge module is collocated and associated with each global core module, and a global core controller is hosted by each of the edge modules collocated with the respective global core modules.

16. (Currently amended) ~~The~~ A high capacity distributed packet switch as claimed in claim 4- comprising a plurality of edge modules, each edge module including at least three dual ports, the at least three dual ports being organized into:

a group of J dual ports connected by communication links to a single regional core center;

a group of L dual ports connected by communications links to a plurality of global core centers; and

a group of K dual ports connected by communications links to data traffic sources and data traffic sinks;

wherein

each edge module maintains a route-set to every other edge module in the global distributed switch, the elements of each route-set identifying routes to a respective other edge module.

17. (original) The high capacity distributed switch as claimed in claim 16 wherein the routes in each route-set are sorted according to a predetermined criterion.

18. (Currently amended) The high capacity distributed switch as claimed in claim 2 1 wherein a regional core module is adaptively reconfigured in response to fluctuations in data traffic loads.

19. (Original) The high capacity distributed switch as claimed in claim 3 wherein a global core module is adaptively reconfigured in response to fluctuations in data traffic loads.

20. (Currently amended) ~~The A~~ high capacity distributed packet switch ~~as claimed in claim 4~~ comprising a plurality of edge modules, each edge module including at least three dual ports, the at least three dual ports being organized into:

a group of J dual ports connected by communication links to a single regional core center;

a group of L dual ports connected by communications links to a plurality of global core centers; and

a group of K dual ports connected by communications links to data traffic sources and data traffic sinks;

wherein a cyclic time period of a control timing circuit of a regional core module is substantially shorter than a cyclic time period of a control timing circuit of a global core module.

21. (Original) The high capacity distributed switch as claimed in claim 20 wherein the control timing circuit for each of the regional core modules comprises an 18-bit counter, the control timing circuit for each of the global core modules is a 22-bit counter, and the clock rate for all of the regional and global core modules is 16 megahertz.

22. (Currently amended) The high capacity distributed switch as claimed in claim 4 20 wherein a rate at which a global core module is reconfigured is substantially lower than a rate at which a regional core module is reconfigured.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Canceled)

25. (Canceled)

26. (Canceled)

27. (Canceled)

28. (Canceled)

29. (Canceled)

30. (Canceled)

31. (Canceled)

32. (Canceled)

33. (Currently amended) ~~The A~~ high capacity distributed packet switch ~~as claimed in claim 11~~ comprising a plurality of edge modules, each edge module including at least three dual ports, the at least three dual ports being organized into:

a group of J dual ports connected by communication links to a single regional core center;

a group of L dual ports connected by communications links to a plurality of global core centers; and

a group of K dual ports connected by communications links to data traffic sources and data traffic sinks;

wherein

the dual ports of said group of L dual ports of at least two of the edge modules in a group of edge modules are respectively connected to at least two of the global core modules via a memory-less cross-connector; and

the memoryless cross-connectors are configured based on long term spatial traffic distribution estimations and projections.

34. (Original) The high capacity distributed switch as claimed in claim 33 wherein new route-sets are distributed to each edge module controller prior to reconfiguration of said memory-less cross connectors.